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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8241
INFO RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/CEN AND OES (PATRICK HUDAK)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TSPL AMGT UZ
SUBJECT: EMBASSY SCIENCE FELLOWS PROGRAM - 2007

REF: STATE 30914

¶1. Per reftel, Post requests the temporary posting of an Embassy Science Fellow to Embassy Tashkent for approximately six weeks in either October-November 2007 or March-April 2008. No medical or security clearance is required. If approved for participation in the program, Post commits to provide housing, office support, in-country travel arrangements, and other logistical support as required. The point of contact for substantive questions about this request is Political Officer David Allen, tel: 998-71-120-5450, email: allendc2@state.gov. Management-related questions may be directed to Management Chief Doug Ellrich, tel: 998-71-120-5450; email: ellrichdk@state.gov.

¶2. Post has discussed the Embassy Science Fellows program with Dr. Ashok Raina, Supervisory Research Entomologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service laboratory in New Orleans, LA. For the past three years, Dr. Raina has been working with Uzbek counterparts on a USDA-funded Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) project to develop management strategies for the control of Turkestan termites at the cultural heritage site in Khiva, Uzbekistan. The project has made good progress and recently was extended for an additional three years. Post believes that Dr. Raina would be an excellent choice for the Embassy Science Fellows Program as his selection would allow him to personally be involved in setting up and running experiments and overcoming obstacles encountered by his Uzbek counterparts. Many of Dr. Raina's counterparts also are involved in cotton pest management, an area that he also has expertise in. In addition to benefiting the USDA project, Dr. Raina's participation also would help to advance Post's efforts in establishing lasting relationships between Uzbek and American scientists.

¶3. Post understands that the deadline for requesting participation in the 2007 Embassy Science Fellows Program has passed, and that requests submitted after the deadline receive second priority for placement of a Fellow. If participation in the 2007 program is not possible, Post asks that this request be considered as part of the 2008 program.
HANSON